

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 23-40 were last presented for examination. All the claims were rejected in the outstanding Office Action. By the foregoing amendments, claims 23-40 have been cancelled and claims 41-64 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 41-64 will be pending in this application. Of these twenty-four (24) claims, two (2) claims (claims 41 and 58) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn. Further, Applicant notes that these Amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims in any way.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 listing additional references identified by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

3. Independent claims 23 and 32 and dependent claims 24-31 and 33-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant invention. Applicant has canceled all pending claims thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

4. Independent claims 23 and 32 and dependent claims 24-31 and 33-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,374,293 to Dev, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Dev"). Applicant has canceled all pending claims thereby rendering these rejections moot. As noted, by the foregoing Amendments, Applicant has added new claims 41-64. Applicant asserts that for the reasons noted below, new claims 41-64 are patentable over the art of record.

5. New claim 41 recites:

A method for allowing a user to determine a health status of network objects in a managed network environment, comprising:

displaying a plurality of group view containers each corresponding to a group of network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute, and providing for each group view container an indicator representative of the overall health status of its corresponding group of network objects based on a health status of each of the group's network objects;

for each network object in a group of network objects corresponding to a user-selected group view container, displaying a representation of the network object, and providing an indicator representative of a health status of the network object as determined by at least one user-definable health characteristic of the network object; and

for each of the at least one health characteristic of a user-selected network object, displaying a representation of the health characteristic, and providing an indicator representative of a health status of the health characteristic.
(See, claim 41, above.)

Applicant respectfully asserts that the art of record neither discloses, teaches nor suggests Applicant's invention as recited in new independent claim 41.

6. Dev is directed to a network management system that includes a virtual network of models which represent network entities and relationships between network entities. Each model includes network data related to a corresponding network entity and one or more inference handlers for processing the network data to provide user information. User displays are provided which include hierarchical location views and topographical views of the network configuration. The network devices are represented on the display by multi-function icons which permit the user to select additional displays showing detailed information regarding different aspects of the corresponding network device. (See, Dev, Abstract, col. 2, lns. 26-39.) No where does Dev or the other art of record disclose, teach or suggest "displaying a plurality of group view containers each corresponding to a group of network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute" as claimed. For example, in Dev there is no teaching or suggestion to group Dev's network devices based on user-definable attributes.

7. The art of record also fails to disclose, teach or suggest providing a health status indicator for each displayed group view container based on a health status of a group of network objects, a health status indicator of network objects of a selected group view container based on at least one health characteristic of the network objects, and a health status indicator of health characteristics of a selected network object based on the health status of the health characteristic, as claimed. For example, in Dev, the variety of views such as the location view, topographical views and generic views of the network are not member views of each other in which the health status of the member views contribute to the health status of the higher-level view.

8. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that new independent claim 41 is patentable over the art of record. Applicant further asserts that claims 42-58, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 41, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

9. By the foregoing Amendments, Applicant has added new independent claim 58. Claim 58 recites:

A system for allowing a user to determine a health status of network objects in a managed network environment, comprising:

means for displaying a plurality of group view containers each corresponding to a group of network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute, and for providing for each group view container an indicator representative of the overall health status of its corresponding group of network objects based on a health status of each of the group's network objects;

means for displaying a representation of the network object, and for providing an indicator representative of a health status of the network object as determined by at least one user-definable health characteristic of the network object for each network object in a group of network objects corresponding to a user-selected group view container; and

means for displaying a representation of the at least one health characteristic, and for providing an indicator representative of a health status of the health characteristic, for each health characteristic of a user-selected network object.

(See, claim 58, above.)

10. For at least the reasons noted above with respect to independent claim 41, Applicant respectfully asserts that new independent claim 58 is also patentable over the art of record. Applicant further asserts that new claims 59-64, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 58 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

9. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Verga', is written over a horizontal line.

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September 28, 2004